

# CHAPEL'S NEW PLAY IS RATED AS ENGROSSING

**By BETTY SCHROEDER**  
Those who associate drama with being boring or dull will have a change of opinion in Chapel Theatre's production of "Five Finger Exercise" by Peter Shaffer, which had its opening showing last weekend.

Under the masterful direction of Ed Long of Manhattan Beach, who dealt with the sensitivity of this play most artfully, the cast outdid themselves making the finished product a most engrossing evening's entertainment. It was indeed gratifying to cast, crew and director when, during final curtain calls, the audiences shouted "Bravo" amid the tumultuous applause and demanded numerous curtain calls of the cast.



**STELLAR PLAYERS**—Leading players in cast of "Five Finger Exercise" emote in this scene from new Chapel Theatre production, playing week-ends at 4164 Pacific Coast Highway. From left, Jack Daly, as Stanley, Melinda Plowman as Pamela, Bob Ballew as Walter and Margaret Middleton as Louise, are the thespians shown awaiting coffee.

Presenting a drama is a difficult task in itself, as it always seems easier to do a comedy, but in this case, there is so much opportunity for each actor to give of himself completely, that the challenge alone is most welcomed. Margaret Middleton of Redondo Beach portrays the mother Louise with all the intended frustrated desires and emotions that can possibly be assembled. Not only does she receive the sympathy of the audience, but also incurs their resentment in the latter part of the play.

**Daily Rated Asset**  
Mrs. Middleton's grace and poise enables her to smoothly portray her role as the nagging wife and dotting mother who rambles incessantly in frustrated nervousness. Jack Daly of Redondo Beach has quite a change of character from his usual comedy roles, as the harassed father and husband, and is most convincing and impressive in his performance. Daly couldn't quite escape the vein of comedy as the caustic and sarcastic head of the household who is so misunderstood by his family, as his dialogue enables him to impart many quips which are most timely and laugh-provoking. These veteran actors, whose versatility seem boundless are always an asset in any play.

The plot is most simple—a situation which is happily rare in most homes, the main problem being the lack of communication among themselves. This is most evident in their relationships: Clive, nervous and ill at ease in his father's presence, yet

elevated by his mother's dotting devotion; Louise and Stanley obviously of different worlds in culture and education; Walter the tutor seeking friendship and family in his loneliness; Pamela the only stable one in the household not as yet having been touched by these conflicting emotions. Thus, each wanting to be recognized as an individual, wanting to love and be loved by each other, but ashamed of showing their feelings—feelings which keep them apart instead of uniting, each has his own way of trying to bring the others to notice them.

**Three Newcomers**  
Three newcomers to Chapel, who reside in Hollywood, give us a taste of many promising things to come from each. Robert Ballew as Walter the young German tutor who becomes both a pawn and a link in this English family, gives a most sensitive characterization of this ill-at-ease, shy and family-hungry escapee from the Nazi regime of World War II. His portrayal evokes much sympathy from the audience, is smooth, refined and wholesome and makes a most af-

fable appearance. Dennis Rhodes portrays the son Clive with real emotion and dexterity as his is actually three roles in one—conflict between mother, father, tutor and himself; trying to emerge from boyhood to manhood; and being the imaginative, nonsensical teen-aged brother. He most capably handles the many moods and emotions which befall this young man.

The last of this English family is the delightful performance by Melinda Bowman who is the bubbly, effervescent teen-aged daughter Pamela. Although her conversation is a jumble of English and American slang, there is a profound little girl's understanding of her elders which belies the childish prattle and actions, and is a most pleasurable and charming characterization of

## NORTH HIGH'S NINTH-GRADERS TO REGISTER

All North High School ninth grade students will report to school at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10. Buses will pick up students at 7:40 a.m. at the following regular bus stops: Redondo Beach Blvd. and Ardath; 151st St. and Daphne; 162nd St. and Illinois Court; 171th St. and Gramercy; and 1900 W. Artesia Blvd.

Freshman students will pick up their class programs in the patio area and report to the gymnasium for the orientation program. The program will include music by the Saxon Band, Saxon songs by the pep squad, greetings from the student body president, Bruce Cole, a tour of the campus, and a meeting with the homeroom teachers. Orientation activities will be concluded by 10:30 a.m.

Regular classes begin for all students Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 8:30 a.m.

## Torrance Men Get Executive Bank Posts

Two Torrance residents have been appointed to executive positions at Pacific State Bank, President R. C. Yearly announced yesterday.

John C. Elsenpeter, 22645 Marjorie Avenue, was promoted to assistant cashier at the Bank's Windsor Hills office, and David D. Sinclair, 3835 W. Artesia Blvd., was

named assistant cashier at the Hawthorne branch.

Elsenpeter, who has been with Pacific States since 1960, has successfully served as teller, operations officer and acting assistant cashier.

He is a native of Minnesota and a graduate of the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis.

He and his wife, Vickie, have two children, Susan Jean and Michael John. They have been Torrance residents for three years.

Sinclair, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, was employed for 33 years with the Bank of Nova Scotia, Canada, prior to joining Pacific State. His experience includes serving as credit officer, loan officer and manager of two branch offices.

Sinclair migrated to the prairie province of Saskatchewan at the age of 15, joined the Canadian bank in 1930 and has completed associate courses in banking of the Canadian Bankers Association.

Pacific State Bank, founded in 1955, has its Torrance office at 21600 So. Normandie Ave., in the Carson Shopping Center.



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## Assessor Gives Warning On Map-Buying 'Pressure'

County assessor Philip Watson today re-emphasized his warning to property owners not to be taken in by official looking postcards which try to pressure them into buying maps of their property. He said that he was informing the taxpayers again because another group of cards have apparently been sent. The cards carry the threatening wording, "Final Reminder," and offer "official maps" for a \$3 fee. The message also warns that unless the map is purchased within 15 days, there will be an additional \$1 charge.

Watson said that property owners may be misled into thinking that this is an official request since the words

"Los Angeles County" and "Property Assessed To" appear on the cards.

The assessor indicated that he was continuing his investigation of this matter. He pointed out that the return address on the cards is "Map and Record Service Co., P. O. Box 2773 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles 54," but there is no phone listing in that name.

Watson emphasized that there is no legal requirement for anyone to have these maps, but that if anyone would want them, they could be obtained from the public service division of the assessor's department for only \$1.15 or \$1.99, depending on the size.

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